

ITEM: 25

SUBJECT: Uncontested NPDES Permit

REPORT: Following is a proposed permit. All agencies and the dischargers concur, or have offered no comments. Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal

a

LAZARUS MINING, LLC AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE, TAHOE NATIONAL FORREST; KLONDIKE, DUTCH AND TELEGRAPH TUNNEL MINES, SIERRA COUNTY.

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit No. CA0084387) Lazarus Mining, LLC (Lazarus) is the owner and operator of the Klondike, Dutch, and Telegraph Tunnel Mines (Facility), which are currently inactive placer gold mine sites located off of Saddleback Road near the town of Downieville in Sierra County. Lazarus is planning to initiate active gold mining at the Dutch and Telegraph Tunnel Mines within the next two to three years. Lazarus owns the unpatented mining claim for the mines and the U.S. Forest Service owns and manages the property on which the Facilities are located. Lazarus is considered the primary Discharger.

However, the U.S. Forest Service is considered a secondary Discharger and is also responsible for compliance with this Order. The Facility consists of three tunnel mines. Effluent from the Telegraph Tunnel Mine discharges directly into Goodyears Creek at Discharge Point 001. Effluent from the Klondike and Dutch Tunnel Mines is commingled and discharged to a swale which flows to Goodyears Creek at Discharge Point 002, approximately 2,500 feet downstream from the discharge from the Telegraph Tunnel Mine. Goodyears Creek is a water of the United States and a tributary to the Yuba River. The Discharger was previously regulated by Order R5 2008 0029, permitting an average dry weather flow of 0.30 million gallons per day (MGD). The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Central Valley Water Board have classified this discharge a minor discharge.

The proposed NPDES permit renewal includes new lead and nickel effluent limits for the Telegraph Tunnel discharge and new cadmium effluent limits for the Klondike and Dutch Mines discharge. The permit also allows Lazarus to conduct active mining at Telegraph Tunnel and Dutch Mines after approval by the U.S. Forest Service and the Water Board's Executive Officer.

A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to the discharger and interested parties on 27 March 2015 for a 30-day public comment period. Comments on the proposed Order were not received during the comment period.

Time Schedule Order. The Discharger submitted an infeasibility study on 27 April 2015 because they are concerned about meeting the newly proposed lead, nickel, and cadmium effluent limits. Water Board Staff are in the process of drafting a Time Schedule Order (TSO) for achieving compliance with these limits. Staff plans on noticing the TSO to the public prior to the 30/31 July 2015 Board meeting.

b	<p>LINCOLN CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION TRUST, GROUNDWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY</p> <p>Consideration of Order Amending NPDES Permit (NPDES Permit No. CA0084255) The Lincoln Center Environmental Remediation Trust (Discharger) operates a Groundwater Treatment System (Facility) as part of a remedial action to clean groundwater polluted with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including perchloroethene (PCE) solvent contamination, considered carcinogenic and a threat to public health in groundwater designated for use as drinking water in the vicinity of the Lincoln Center remediation site. Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2011-0055 authorizes the discharge of treated groundwater to Fourteen Mile Slough via the City of Stockton’s storm drain system.</p> <p>On 9 December 2014, the Discharger requested an amendment of Order R5 2011 0055 to: 1) modify description of the treatment system, 2) reduce the permitted discharge rate from 0.43 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.25 MGD, and 3) increase the electrical conductivity (EC) average monthly effluent limit from 900 µmhos/cm to 1,500 µmhos/cm. Due to the reduction in effluent flow, the increased EC effluent limit does not represent an increase in the mass of salinity discharged to Fourteen Mile Slough. The revised EC effluent limit, therefore, complies with State and federal antidegradation requirements, and meets the federal antibacksliding exception under 303(d)(4) of the Clean Water Act.</p>
c	<p>UNITED AUBURN INDIAN COMMUNITY, THUNDER VALLEY CASINO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, PLACER COUNTY</p> <p>Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit No. CA0084697) The United Auburn Indian Community is the owner and operator of the Thunder Valley Casino Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility), a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) located at 1200 Athens Avenue, Lincoln, California. The Facility provides sewerage services for the Thunder Valley Casino, a gaming and entertainment facility serving a population that fluctuates with the patronage at the Facility. The Facility provides tertiary treatment for up to 0.70 million gallons per day (MGD). The Discharger is planning an upgrade and expansion of the Facility that will increase the total capacity of the Facility to 0.875 MGD. Treated wastewater from the Facility is discharged to Orchard Creek, a water of the United States and a tributary to Auburn Ravine, East Side Canal, Natomas Cross Canal, and the Sacramento River.</p> <p>Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Order R5-2010-0005, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 28 January 2010. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The proposed permit renewal includes new or revised effluent limitations for ammonia, and nitrate plus nitrite. In addition, the effluent limitations for aluminum, cadmium, delta-bhc, electrical conductivity, endrin aldehyde, iron, lead, manganese, and zinc have been removed, because the discharge does not demonstrate reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an instream exceedance of the applicable water quality objectives.</p>

d	<p>WHEELABRATOR SHASTA ENERGY COMPANY, INC., SHASTA COUNTY</p> <p>Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Company, Inc. owns and operates a 54-megawatt wood-fired electrical generating facility in Anderson, California. Process water, storm water, and perched groundwater are discharged to an onsite retention pond, which in turn discharges to the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District Canal (Canal) at Discharge Point 001, and storm water and perched groundwater are discharged to the Canal at Discharge Point 003. The Canal is hydraulically connected to the Sacramento River, a water of the United States, via Crowley Creek, Gotta Creek, Hooker Creek, Patterson Creek and Cottonwood Creek. The discharge is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2009-0044 (NPDES Permit No. CA0081957).</p> <p>The proposed WDRs/NPDES permit does not include significant changes from the current WDRs/NPDES permit, except for the removal of requirements for the Wheelabrator Lassen facility, which is no longer operating. Additionally, the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit includes requirements for a proposed fuel pile storm water pond. Currently, storm water that contacts the fuel piles remains in the fuel pile area. The Discharger proposes to construct a storm water pond to direct storm water away from the fuel piles, which should help minimize odors and increase fuel efficiency.</p> <p>Comments on the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit were submitted by the Discharger. The Discharger requested changes to references to the proposed fuel pile storm water pond, to Provision VI.C.4.h.iii regarding dissolved oxygen in the fuel pile storm water pond, to fly ash provisions and monitoring requirements, and other minimal changes to clarify or correct information. Central Valley Water Board staff's responses are provided in the Responses to Comments document. Revisions to the proposed WDRs/NPDES permit were made in response to these comments.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed NPDES permits.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

June 4/5, 2015

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting

11020 Sun Center Dr. #200